

Serial No. 10/816,288

PATENT

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

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1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly comprising;
a handle,
an outer needle extending from the handle,
a side port in the handle, the side port being connectable with a source of
flushing liquid,
a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion being axially
aligned with the outer needle, the connector portion having a first
connector thereon,
an aspiration cannula assembly having an aspiration cannula extending
proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion and a distal
portion of the aspiration cannula, the proximal portion of the aspiration
cannula being connectable to an aspiration assembly, the distal portion of
the aspiration cannula adapted to extend through the handle into a lumen
of the outer needle to the distal end thereof, and
a second connector on the grip adapted to connect to the first connector
on the connector portion to join the aspiration cannula assembly
to the handle for use.

4. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly comprising;
a handle with a handle lumen therein,
an outer needle extending from the handle, the outer needle having a
needle lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen,

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5 a side port in the handle, the side port having a side port lumen in fluid
6 communication with the handle lumen and being connectable with a source
7 of flushing liquid,
8 a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion having a
9 connector lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, the
10 connector portion being axially aligned with the outer needle, the connector
11 portion having a first connector thereon,
12 an aspiration cannula assembly having an aspiration cannula extending
13 proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion and a distal
14 portion of the aspiration cannula, the proximal portion of the aspiration
15 cannula being connectable to an aspiration assembly, the distal portion of
16 the aspiration cannula in use extending into the handle lumen via the
17 connector lumen and to extend into the outer needle lumen to the distal
18 end thereof, and a second connector on the grip adapted to connect to the
19 first on the connector portion to join the aspiration cannula assembly to the
20 handle for use.

1 5. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 wherein the first and second connectors are selected from the group
3 consisting of Luer lock type connectors, push fit connectors, a resilient clip
4 or catch arrangement or any other convenient arrangement.

1 6. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 wherein the outer needle has a bevelled sharpened tip at its distal end.

1 7. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 6

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2 wherein the bevelled tip is further sharpened with a secondary bevel to
3 assist with cutting into a follicle.

1 8. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 6
2 wherein when assembled the distal end of the aspiration cannula
3 terminates just within the bevelled sharpened tip of the outer needle.

1 9. (Currently Amended) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as
2 in Claim 8 B wherein the distal end terminates between 0.5 to 1.5 mm
3 proximally from the base of the bevel of the sharpened tip.

1 10. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 wherein a portion at the distal end of outer needle is treated to improve its
3 ultrasound echo characteristics wherein the treatment is selected from the
4 group consisting of indenting, patterning or knurling or coating with a
5 different material and the treatment is spaced back from the bevelled tip or
6 extends

1 11. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 further including a tapered extension on the gripper surrounding the cannula
3 which extends into connector portion in use.

1 12. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 11
2 wherein the tapered extension has an O-ring seal on it to improve sealing of
3 the aspiration cannula assembly into the handle.

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1 13. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 further comprising alignment detents on the tapered extension which
3 engage with corresponding recesses on the connector portion.

1 14. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 13
2 wherein the alignment detents on the tapered extension and the recess on
3 the connector portion provided a depth setting on the recess in the
4 connector portion to ensure the distal tip of the aspiration cannula is in a
5 desired position within the distal tip of the outer needle.

1 15. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 wherein the connector portion lumen has internally tapered walls to guide
3 the aspiration cannula into the outer needle lumen.

4 16. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
5 wherein the aspiration and flushing needle assembly is supplied in a sterile
6 peel open package and is intended for one use only.

1 17. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly as in Claim 4
2 wherein the aspiration and flushing needle assembly is supplied in a
3 disassembled state and intended to be assembled by a physician in use.

1 18. (Original) An aspiration and flushing needle assembly comprising;
2 a handle with a handle lumen therein,
3 an outer needle extending from the handle, the outer needle comprising a
4 needle lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, a bevelled
5 sharpened tip at its distal end and a portion at the distal end of outer
6 needle being treated to improve its ultrasound echo characteristics, a side

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7 port in the handle, the side port having a side port lumen in fluid
 8 communication with the handle lumen and being connectable with a source
 9 of flushing liquid,
 10 a connector portion on the handle, the connector portion having a
 11 connector lumen in fluid communication with the handle lumen, the
 12 connector portion being axially aligned with the outer needle, the connector
 13 portion having a male Luer lock connector thereon,
 14 an aspiration cannula assembly having an aspiration cannula extending
 15 proximally and distally from a grip to define a proximal portion and a distal
 16 portion of the aspiration cannula,
 17 the proximal portion of the aspiration cannula being connectable to an
 18 aspiration assembly,
 19 the distal portion of the aspiration cannula in use extending into the handle
 20 lumen via the connector lumen and to extend into the outer needle lumen
 21 to the distal end thereof, and
 22 a female Luer lock connector on the grip adapted to connect to the male
 23 Luer lock connector to join the aspiration cannula assembly to the handle
 24 for use.

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